

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0021], with the following amended paragraph:

**[0021]** FIGS. 3A and 3B show two embodiments of stents according to the present invention, both having a single helical configuration. Each of stents 30a and 30b comprise a first end portion 301, a middle portion 302 and a second end portion 303. The middle portion 302 has a diameter greater than either of the first end portion 301 or the second end portion 303. FIG. 3A shows a stent with a ribbon-like configuration, while the stent in FIG. 3B has a wire-like configuration. In addition to single helices, double-, triple- and multiple-helix configurations are also possible. The stents according to the present invention can be manufactured by, for example, laser cutting, casting or extruding and can also be manufactured in multiple sub-section pieces.